

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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O 032100Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SHUM, DR

SUBJECT: ALLEGED CAMPAIGN IRREGULARITIES IN THE DR:
CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY

1. REP. DONALD FRASER HAS WRITTEN TO DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, CONCERNING THE CURRENT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. IN HIS LETTER REP. FRASER REQUESTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT COMMENT ON CERTAIN ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN THE CAMPAIGN.
2. FOLLOWING ARE PORTIONS OF REP. FRASER'S LETTER ON WHICH THE CONGRESSMAN REQUESTS STATE DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:

QUOTE:

I AM ALSO ENCLOSING SOME PRESS CLIPPINGS FROM THE DOMINICAN
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REPUBLIC WHICH ALLEGE A NUMBER OF IRREGULARITIES IN REGIS-
TRATION FOR VOTING IN THAT COUNTRY. ONE ARTICLE STATES
THAT THE CENTRAL ELECTION BOARD HAS PROVED THAT IN 15,000
CASES VOTERS POSSESSED MORE THAN ONE REGISTRATION
CERTIFICATE. THE ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS THAT A FORMER
EMPLOYEE OF THE CENTRAL ELECTION BOARD HAS ASSERTED THAT

IN THE OFFICE IN WHICH HE WORKED MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY

(WHO ARE NOT PERMITTED TO VOTE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC) HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH VOTING PAPERS. . . . IT IS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE LOVE CRUSADE, A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION HEADED BY THE SISTER OF PRESIDENT BALAGUER, HAS BEEN ISSUING PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS. THESE CARDS ARE A PREREQUISITE FOR REGISTERING TO VOTE, AND ARE ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT. . . . MOREOVER, THE PRD ALLEGES THAT MORE THAN 100,000 POOR CITIZENS OF VOTING AGE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN THEIR IDENTIFICATION CARDS, AND THUS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REGISTER TO VOTE BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE THE MONEY TO PURCHASE THE CARD. . . . I RECOGNIZE THAT THE GOVERNMENT DENIES SOME OF THESE ALLEGATIONS, AND ASSERTS THAT WITH RESPECT TO OTHERS EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO ELIMINATE THEM. WE CANNOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHERE THE TRUTH LIES. HOWEVER, THE ALLEGATIONS DO RAISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS WHETHER THE ELECTIONS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WILL BE FREE AND GENUINE AS WE ALL HOPE THEY WILL BE.

PERHAPS MOST DISTURBING IS A STATEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY MAJOR GENERAL ENRIQUE PEREZ Y PEREZ, COMMANDANT OF THE FIRST BRIGADE OF THE NATIONAL ARMY. WITH RESPECT TO PREVIOUS ELECTIONS, HE IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THE MILITARY INTERFERENCE IN THE CAMPAIGN AND THE ELECTORAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROCESS. MR. PEREZ IS REPORTED TO HAVE STATED THAT THE PRD AND OPPOSITION PARTIES SHOULD NOT FORM ANY ILLUSIONS ABOUT DEFEATING THE REFORMIST PARTY AND PRESIDENT BALAGUER ON MAY 16 OF THIS YEAR. HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE PRD "IS NOT GOING TO WIN" THE ELECTIONS. HE IS FURTHER QUOTED TO HAVE STATED THAT "NO ONE WILL BEAT DR. BALAGUER. THE NATION NEEDS HIM. HE IS THE ONLY SALVATION." . . .

END QUOTE.

(FULL TEXT OF REP. FRASER'S LETTER WITH ENCLOSURES HAS BEEN POUCHED TO THE AMBASSADOR).

3. THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO CABLE REPORT AND COMMENTS ASAP, ADDRESSING POINTS IN REP. FRASER'S LETTER QUOTED ABOVE. THE WHITE HOUSE REQUESTS EARLIEST POSSIBLE RESPONSE. VANCE

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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